



THE COALITION TO PROTECT AMERICA'S NATIONAL PARKS

— VOICES OF EXPERIENCE —

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Coalition News

Happy Spring! Our advocacy efforts are well underway with the Coalition commenting on numerous federal and state initiatives. Additionally, the Coalition celebrated the creation of the Amache National Historic Site and continues to support efforts to achieve the President's 30 x 30 Initiative, such as the establishment of a Castner Range National Monument in Texas. Take a look at some of the highlights below.

Advocacy Actions

Here are a few of the actions we took in March:

- We submitted [extensive comments](#) on Air Tour Management Plan Alternatives for Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, including a request that this process be expanded and applied to other parks.
- The Coalition submitted [comments](#) on a proposed NPS rule regarding the Visitor Experience and Improvement Authority (VEIA) contracts. The letter supports extension of the authority and identifies areas of park level operations that NPS should ensure are supported by the regulations.
- The Coalition submitted [comments](#) to Secretary Haaland on the American Conservation and Stewardship Atlas.
- We [commented](#) on the Grand Canyon National Park proposed increase to backcountry overnight permit fees. The Coalition encouraged the Park to provide a public comment opportunity and recommended modernizing its reservation management system.
- Coalition members published an op-ed in the *Bangor Daily News* on [staffing levels and funding](#) and in *The Daily Sentinel* on [locality pay](#).
- We continue to engage on issues related to regional haze and partnered on letters regarding the implementation plans in [Montana](#) and [Wyoming](#).

Visit our [website](#) to learn more and take a look at our other advocacy efforts.

Announcements

The [Park Institute of America](#) (PIA) recently published a story map for the proposed Chesapeake Bay National Recreation Area. It can be viewed [here](#). This project was funded by PIA and the Chesapeake Conservancy to support legislation designating the Bay as a national recreation area, promote good stewardship, and encouraging community engagement.

On the Horizon

Here is a look at some of the work we'll be tackling in April:

- Organizing the Coalition's virtual Hill Advocacy Day
- Releasing our report on national monuments and accompanying sign-on letter
- Developing a strategy to support the improvement of employee morale within NPS
- Sustained engagement and advocacy on the 30 x 30 Initiative
- Reform to the Federal oil and gas leasing program
- Regional Haze concerns and Air Tour Management Plan comments

Member Count

The Coalition added 30 new members in March bringing the total to 2,205. Know anyone interested in becoming a member? They can join [here](#).

Notable Actions

On Friday, March 18, 2022, President Joe Biden signed into law the *Amache National Historic Site Act*, designating the Amache National Historic Site in the state of Colorado as part of the National Park System. Information about the signing can be found in the NPS [press release](#) and additional information about Amache National Historic Site can be found [here](#).

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